

BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF ENFORCEMENT )  
ACTION AGAINST )  
 )  
Washington State Nurses Association PAC )  
 )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

PDC CASE NO: 04-420

STIPULATION OF FACTS  
VIOLATIONS AND  
PENALTY

The Washington State Nurses Association PAC (WSNA PAC) (Respondent) and the Public Disclosure Commission Staff (Staff) jointly submit this Stipulation of Facts, Violations and Penalty for Commission consideration in lieu of a full enforcement hearing before the Commission. The parties agree that, pursuant to RCW 42.17.360, the Commission has the authority to accept, decline, or to suggest modifications to this Stipulation. In the interest of avoiding further proceedings, the parties enter this Stipulation.

**Facts**

Both parties agree to the following facts:

1. The WSNA PAC is the political committee of the Washington State Nurses Association, a Seattle, Washington based association of nurses. The WSNA PAC has been registered with the PDC since at least 1999. Reports were not filed with the PDC from 1999 through 2003.

2. As a political committee, WSNA PAC was required to file detailed reports of contributions received on PDC form C-3, and summary reports of contributions received and expenditures made, including details of expenditure activities, on PDC form C-4 and its appropriate schedules.
3. On or around October 2003, Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff received a telephone call inquiring about why WSNA PAC reports were not available on-line through the PDC's website. Following the telephone call, PDC staff contacted the WSNA to discuss the apparent lapse in reporting. WSNA staff and legal counsel met with PDC staff on December 12, 2003 and confirmed that WSNA PAC had failed to timely file contribution and expenditure reports since at least 1999. PDC staff met with Judith Huntington, Executive Director, Anne Tan Piazza, Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs and Media Relations, and Liz Ford, WSNA Legal Counsel.
4. In response to a complaint filed by PDC Executive Director Vicki Rippie, Ms. Huntington stated that staff transitions resulted in a failure to communicate clearly who held the responsibility for generating and then submitting the reports.
5. Ms. Huntington stated that WSNA PAC has established internal procedures to insure that future reports are timely filed.
6. Ms. Huntington acknowledged that, as a political committee, WSNA PAC failed to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports reflecting monetary contributions received totaling \$58,006 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$41,781 for activities occurring between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2003. In addition, WSNA PAC received in-kind contributions during this same five-year period totaling

\$42,632, representing the value of WSNA staff time to support the efforts of WSNA PAC.

7. Ms. Huntington stated that a large portion of the WSNA PAC's annual income and expense is related to the Nurse Legislative Day Conference, a lobbying event sponsored by the WSNA.
8. Of the monetary expenditures made, \$12,165 represented monetary contributions to candidates and one independent expenditure made to benefit a candidate.

Specifically, WSNA PAC failed to timely file the following:

- a. In 1999, 10 C-3 reports and six C-4 reports showing monetary contributions received of \$9,874 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$8,082. No contributions were made to candidates. The reports were filed more than four years late on February 17, 2004.
- b. In 2000, five C-3 reports and eight C-4 reports showing monetary contributions received of \$13,129 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$11,470. Contributions made to candidates totaled \$5,400. The reports were filed more than three years late on February 17, 2004.
- c. In 2001, four C-3 reports and six C-4 reports showing monetary contributions received of \$11,263 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$4,118. Contributions made to candidates totaled \$250. The reports were filed more than two years late on February 17, 2004.
- d. In 2002, nine C-3 reports and ten C-4 reports showing monetary contributions received of \$10,381 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$11,640. Contributions made to candidates totaled \$3,300 and

one independent expenditure made to benefit a candidate totaled \$2,590.

The independent expenditure was required to be reported on PDC form C-6 as a special report to the commission due within 24 hours of sponsoring political advertising that was distributed within 21 days of the 2002 general election. (RCW 42.17.103). The reports were filed more than one year late on February 17, 2004.

- e. In 2003, nine C-3 reports and four C-4 reports showing monetary contributions received of \$13,360 and monetary expenditures made totaling \$6,470. A contribution made to a candidate totaled \$625. The reports were filed from one month to one year late on February 17, 2004.

### **Violations**

Respondent and Staff agree that based upon the facts stipulated above, the Respondent committed multiple violations of RCW 42.17.080, 42.17.090, and 42.17.103:

- by failing to timely file Monetary Contribution reports (PDC form C-3) for contributions received between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2003 totaling \$58,006; (RCW 42.17.080 and 42.17.090)
- by failing to timely file Summary Contribution and Expenditure Reports (PDC form C-4) disclosing monetary contributions received totaling \$58,006, monetary expenditures made totaling \$41,781 and in-kind contributions totaling \$42,632 between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2003 (including contributions made to candidates totaling \$9,575 and one independent expenditure benefiting a candidate totaling \$2,590); (RCW 42.17.080 and 42.17.090) and

Stipulation of Facts, Violations and Penalty  
Case No.: 04-420

- by failing to timely file a special report to the commission (PDC form C-6) within 24 hours of sponsoring political advertising that was distributed within 21 days of the 2002 general election. (RCW 42.17.103)

### **Penalty**

Respondent and Staff agree that based upon the facts and the agreement regarding violations of RCW 42.17 above, the Respondent accepts an assessed total civil penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) will be suspended provided WSNA PAC is not found in violation of any section of RCW 42.17 for four years from the date of entry of the Commission's Final Order in this matter. The Respondent agrees to fully comply in good faith with all provisions of Chapter 42.17 RCW in the future.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of March, 2004.

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Rippie, Executive Director

3/24/04  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth G. Ford  
Legal Counsel, WSNA

3/24/04  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date